(c) During 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (upto December, 1993), the number of prosecution launched and conviction awarded are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number of Prosecutions Launched ami Convictions Awarded

Year	*Prosecution launched*	*Convictions*
1991-92	552	56
1992-93	442	58
1993-94 (upto December 1993)	273	82

Basis of E.C. allocation of urea

5059. SHRI WiRENDRA KATARIA : WiU the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the basis of E.C. allocation of urea to different manufactures in the ccmntry;

(b) whether it is a fact that freight is borne by Government for transportation of the fertilizer and a lot of amount is spent for transportation from far away places when urea fertilizer is available at near places; and

(c) what steps Government is taking for rationalizing the EIC. alloction to avoid wasteful expenditure on freight ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVTND NETAM) : (a) to (c) Allocation of urea from manufacturers to states is made keeping in view the following broad principles :

(i) By and large, no State is made dependent on one manufacturer for supply of urea and no manufacturer is made dependent on one State for marketing its urea ; and

(ii) criss-cross movement of urea and movements involving long haulages are avoided to the extent possible. Ration-alisation is a continuous process and in order to minimise transportation post, Government pays a single equated freight for indigenously produced urea and a normative freight for imported urea moved from production centres/ ports to States under allocation.

Cotton production in Punjab

5060. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the cotton production in the State of Punjab in the present year ;

(b) whether there is any fall in production, if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is Ml time record of high cotton prices in Punjab this year;

(d) Whether it is also a fact that the benefit of the high prices has not fully gone to farmers and instead has gone to the middle men and the mill owners ; and

(e) what steps Governmeat is taking to watch the interest of fanners in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIIISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Accordiag to present assessment the production of cotton in Punjalb during 1993-94 it likely to be about 17.27 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

(b) Yes, Sir. The fall in the production of cotton in Punjab during 1993-94 is attributed to pests (Heliothis) attack.

(c) The wholesale prices of cotton on the whole in Punjab during 1993-94 was quoted much higher than the preceding years.

(d) and (c) The prices of kapas (raw cotton) have been continuously ruling at higher level that the minimum support prices from the beginning of the cotton season and therefore, the farmers are ex pected to have received the benefit of *the* higher prices.

Construction of Warehouse etc. at barant by CWC

5061. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : WiH the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

why Central Warehousing Corporation has not initiated any action for having its own constructed Regional Office and Consinic-tion Cell and Warehouse at Barasat, Lake Depot as assured by the Food Minister earlier.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : For construction of Central Warehousing Coriporation's own office building for Regional Office/Construction Cell at Calcutta, the Corporation have booked 1,000 sq. ft. space with Calcutta port Trust authoritiea in response to their adiveitiaemeinit for building office complex.

Construotiton of Warehouse at Barasat would depend interalia upon availability of suitable and viable business.

For setting up of a Warehouse at Lake Depot, no land is available in this locality for th© purpose. As such there is no proposal for construction of Warehouse at Lake Depot of Calcutta by the Corporation.

Theft incidents at CWC

5062. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : WiU the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two theft incidents took plaice at CWC, C.K. Road, as a consequence of which 6 group 'C and 'D' employees were penalised by sus pending them by the CWC management ; and

(b) why the suspension orders have not been revoked against them till finalisation of enquiry by the management or police authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that at Central Warehouse, C.K. Road, two thefts had occurred on 29-10-92 and 24-7-93. In one of the theft incidents. one Junior Technical Assistant, 3 Ware-house Assistantis Grade ll, and one chowkidar were placed under suspension as they were held under lock-up by police for more than 48 hours. In the 2nd incident; of theft, another chowkidar was placed under suspension. In view of the seriousnes.s of the irreeulsritics/allegation, the suspension Review Committee as well as the competent authority have not considered it approipriate to revoke the suspension order at this stage.

Closing of hired godowns in Calcutta by CWC

5063. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the inadequate business, CWC Calcutta closed a numbar of hired godowns since 1991 although the same have been hired for tow rent ;

(b) what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what are the reasons for the non-completion of construction work of CWC Bonhdoghly, CFS, Caltoutta by the cons-truction cell within the prescribed time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TOE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Central Warehousing Corporation had closed a numnrt of hired godowns in Calcutta since 1991 due to the following reasons :—

1. Withdrawal of reservations by bulk depositors viz FCI, STC etc. where godowns were hired for their exclusive use.

2. Due to continued financial losses and inadequate business.

3. 0n account of unstorage worthy conditions of the godowns.

(c) The Corporation is setting up 18,000 Metric Tonnes capacity godowns at Bonhooghly. The above work was awarded in July 1992 and was to be completed in two years i.e. upto July, 1994. One godown of 5000 Metric Tonnes is nearing comipletion and balance capacity is also at rcof level. All efforts are being made to complete entire capacity in the targeted period.